



Volume 21, No. 4

# Foggy Bottom News

Published for and by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom

Page One

January 1977

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Monday, January 31**  
**8pm**

**Next Speaker:**  
**To Be Announced**



## The Eye Street Matter

During November Councilmember Jerry Moore held public hearings on George Washington University's request to close "I" Street between 23rd and 24th Streets. Among the Foggy Bottom residents testifying were Melvin Ogden, Dirck Holscher, Mary Healy and Marthlu Bledsoe. Harold Davitt submitted written testimony.

However, since the Transportation Committee (which is chaired by the Reverend Moore) made no recommendation to the full Council during the last session, the matter must again be referred from the full Council to the Transportation subcommittee, and the process begun anew.

The delay may be due to the fact that the community dis-

played intense interest in the disposition of GWU's request for the street, and inaction was a convenient way to proceed slowly and judge the depth of neighborhood feeling.

The delay may also be due to the fact that the administrative assistant to the subcommittee, Tony Rachel, left shortly after the hearing to join DOT.

Seventeen hundred questionnaires were distributed in the community around the block in question. Three hundred were returned, with results showing about an even split between "open it back up" and "close it, but don't give GW title or zoning benefit." Almost none of the returns favored giving GW the block for its very own.

The Very Reverend Basil J. Anziferoff, a Foggy Bottom resident and Russian Orthodox priest in this country for 54 years, passed away on November 27, 1976 at George Washington Hospital as the result of a fall. He was 93 years old.

The Reverend and former officer in the Russian Imperial Guard was a much loved resident of Potomac Plaza Apartments, well remembered for his walks around the Foggy Bottom area.

Vassily-Ivanovich Anziferoff was born in Odessa, Crimea, Russia in 1883, a direct descendant of one of the small groups of mounted Cossacks that conquered all of Siberia and presented the entire territory to Tzar Ivan The Terrible (correctly translated, Ivan the Severe).

In accordance with his mother's wishes, as a youth Basil attended a seminary to prepare for the priesthood in the Russian Eastern Orthodox Church. However, his mother died when he was fourteen and his father, a Marine Engineer, enrolled him in the Odessa Secondary School of Engineering. While there, Basil did not forget his early religious training. He audited courses at a nearby seminary.

As requirement of the technical school, Basil served a two-year apprenticeship as a Junior Assistant Marine Engineer aboard various steamships, thus following his father's vocation. During those years he made voyages to Egypt, ports of the Black Sea, the Persian Gulf, and to Vladivostok in Eastern Siberia. He was graduated upon completing his apprenticeship, and in 1901 enrolled in the Kiev Technical School. In the last year of his studies the Russian-Japanese War came in 1904 and Basil was among the first group of his class to volunteer for military duty. Inducted in the Russian Army Engineer Corp he was transported via the Trans-Siberian Railroad to Vladivostok where he saw action in the front lines until he was wounded.

When the Russian-Japanese War was ended, Basil was demobilized and he returned to the Black Sea where he served as Chief Engineer aboard the S.S. Pushkin, the S.S. Karaleva Olga and the S.S. Grand Duke Alexis. In 1909, tired of sea life, he was appointed Chief of Land Grants, City Hall, Yalta. While there he married a Yalta woman and they had one son.

When Russia entered World War I, Basil was one of the first to be called to military duty. He was placed in the Tzar's Guard in the Corps of Military Engineers and sent to the Austrian Front where he was disabled by an enemy bomb while laying railroad tracks under heavy bombardment. So many were wounded at

that time that the majority could not be cared for, but Basil, barely conscious, managed to pull himself on the roof of a train and survived several hours in unprotected zero weather until the train reached a place where he was hospitalized.

After several months in the hospital and he began to recover, Basil was appointed Chief of Military Railroads on the newly opened Turkish front with headquarters in Tiflis. Under the new commission he alternately fought the Turks and built new railway supply lines. When the Russian Revolution broke out no food or ammunition supplies reached the eastern front. Unable to either fight or protect themselves many soldiers deserted. Those that remained fought with what they had.

Under Basil's command a group of engineers tried to burn a bridge over a deep ravine to hold back the Turks. With only a few bullets left, Basil ordered his men to keep going while he barricaded himself behind some rocks and kept the Turks back with several bullets he had left in his revolver until the bridge caught on fire. A hand grenade was finally lobbed over by the Turks. Basil was wounded across the face and body. Although he managed to make his escape the left side of his face and body were paralyzed. He finally recovered to be able to make his way back to Yalta.

After he returned, he resumed his position as Chief of Land Grants, but Yalta became a battleground between the Red and the White armies, changing hands several times before it finally fell to the Reds. Basil, forewarned that he had been condemned to a firing squad, went into hiding and left Russia. He was later reunited with his wife and son in Constantinople after they made a daring escape from Yalta.

After Constantinople, the family were able to get visas to enter the United States and they finally settled in Chicago. There the ex-Military Officer and Ship's Chief Engineer met the Archbishop of the Russian Orthodox Church of the United States who formerly had been the Rector at Kiev Academy where Basil had done some studies. Through this association, Basil became ordained as a priest in the Russian Orthodox Church and in that capacity he served for 42 years in various cities—Sioux City, Iowa, Olyphant, Pa., Clairmont, New Hampshire, and Wilmington, Delaware.

While in Wilmington, Rev. Anziferoff founded, designed, and built St. Michel's Church. He began its construction with only \$6,000 and unbounded faith. Bishop McKinstry, Episcopal

Bishop of Delaware, and Mrs. Alfred I. DuPont gave him both moral and financial support. He served the church as its priest for 8 years and was made Pastor Emeritus February 10, 1967.

After his wife, Matushka Alma-Maria died in 1969, his son persuaded Father Basil to retire from the ministry and move to Washington, D.C. There he lived quietly and contentedly for some six years until the accident occurred that caused his death.

## Citizens to Help Plan for Area's Water Resources

A series of public meetings will be held in January to give as many citizens as possible an opportunity to participate in planning how to use the area's water resources.

The new program, being directed by COG's Water Resources Planning Board, is designed to explore water resource problems and ensure that the water is clean and the supply adequate to meet the area's present and future needs.

The meetings are part of a continuing series of public discussions on the area's water resources being sponsored by the Water Board and its citizen advisory committee. Francis B. Francois is Chairman of the Water Board and Rockwood H. Foster heads the citizen committee. Mr. Francois is a member of the Prince George's County Council; Mr. Foster is a resident of the District of Columbia.

Each meeting will feature a discussion of the planning program and the current condition of the area's waters and tell citizens how they can participate in the new program. Committee members from the areas in which the meetings will be held will participate in each meeting.

The program, financed primarily by \$3.5 million from the Environmental Protection Agency, is designed to find solutions to the area's water pollution problems—solutions which can be put into effect quickly and updated annually. The result will be a detailed plan for cleaning up the area's water, including specific proposals for control and regulation.

For more information on the new program, call COG's Water Resources Citizen Participation Coordinator, Elizabeth Jester, at 223-6800, ext. 238.

from: COG Regional Report  
Nov. 1976



# ANC NEWS

## NEW ANC OFFICERS ELECTED

At the ANC meeting on January 13, the following officers were elected:

- Chairman . . . . .Harold Davitt  
Vice Chairman. . . . .Ann Loikow  
Secretary. . . . .Vacant \*\*  
Treasurer . . . . .Marthlu Bledsoe

The next election of ANC Commissioners will be held in November 1977, with election of officers again in January 1978.

\*\* Mr. James Slicer declined the nomination.

## GOOD SAMARITAN DEED

Thomas Folk, the new Resident Manager at Potomac Plaza, was seen salting down the traffic island crosswalk at Virginia and New Hampshire Avenues. On that nasty icy evening of January 14 after five or six people had fallen down in a very short time. Thomas Folk took himself, a bucket of salt, and walked the icy block between the Plaza and the dangerous plot and personally salted the area. Thank you, Tom, for your interest and concern for our citizens. You are a new-comer to our neighborhood, but we welcome you and thank you again for your kind deed.

## ANC Business Meetings—

Feb. 8 8 PM  
Board Room  
Red Cross Bldg.  
2025 E Streets, NW

March 8 8 PM  
St. Stephens Church  
25th & Penn. Ave.

## Foggy Bottom Farmer



"If winter comes can spring be far behind," a beguiling half-truth, has none of the warmth and reassuring quality of the arrival of the season's first seed or nursery catalog—a most tantalizing document whose every page can take you to that vernal clime, and charm the pennies from your pocket. If you're not addicted, and wish to see what its like, here are some addresses:

W. Atlee Burpee (flowers and vegetables)  
Warminster, Pa. 18974

Wayside Gardens (unusual plants not found in most nurseries), Mentor, Ohio. Send \$1.00; it's worth much more.

Ingleside Plantation Nurseries  
Oak Grove, Va. 22443

Wayside's catalog is more like an illustrated encyclopedia that you will want to keep for reference, if not for ordering.

In Washington's parks and at its roadsides the falling leaves raise the curtain on some of winter's most visual delights. There's sculpture along Rock Creek,—the silver trunks of the Beech; tight-barked under muscular bulgings; colonies of American Sycamore near the stream,—straight white patterned trunks (white trunks patterned with) with tan, olive and gray stripes of flaking bark. The wide spread olive branches twist and turn over the water and above the drive.

Other delights of our winter are many. Situated as we are between the two great storm tracks of Eastern U.S., most major winter storms skirt us and we're blessed with sunshine. Farther north the sun is not long seen from November to March; snows may stop but the overcast stays on with only fleeting patches of blue. Not so on the Potomac.

—William S. Lattin



## Are YOU a Member?

The Foggy Bottom Association is a non-profit citizens' association serving the Foggy Bottom area. Please fill out and mail the membership card below with your check for \$3.00 to:

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## Foggy Bottom News

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial and other assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

Editor . . . . . Anne Lomas 692-4495 (day)  
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Bill Lattin  
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24th and L Sts., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20037

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The opinions expressed in this publications are those of the writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

### 1976-77 OFFICERS

President . . . . . Robert H. Charles, Jr.  
333-1011  
Vice President . . . . . Dirck Holscher  
Secretary . . . . . Pam Mack  
Treasurer . . . . . Janet Axtell

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## SEEN AROUND THE BOTTOM

As the old saying goes—"Pickens was slim" in December around the Bottom. Late in September I took a bad spill (getting too old for that kind of stuff) and it finally caught up with me in December—slowed me down considerably in my walking around the neighborhood. And the extreme cold hasn't helped any. Nevertheless I do have some things which I hope you will find interesting.

The National Park Service has been busy planting in several sections of our area, as has the City, METRO and the Argentine Embassy. Their work most assuredly will result in much beauty in the spring and for years to come.

Additional flowering trees have been planted in the George Washington Circle Park and on New Hampshire Avenue between H and Eye Streets. I hope motorists don't knock any more of these down. Trees which didn't make it over the past several years were replaced on the Juarez Park at Va. and N.H. Avenues and the shrubbery has been re-arranged and/or replaced. Drainage was installed and at long last we got our automatic sprinkler system on the north side of the Juarez Park.

A sight to behold is the new park bounded by 20th and 21st Sts and Va. Ave. and E St. It is really lovely. You will remember that for years this was a flat, muddy, dirty, barren block! Take a look now; you won't believe it—all full of large aged pine trees, crepe myrtle, oaks, flowering bushes and evergreen shrubbery. And benches and other seating for relaxing and enjoying the peace and beauty. Holding court over this beauty is the magnificent statue in tribute

to General Jose de San Martin—founder of the Argentine Independence; he led the liberating Army across the Andes and gave freedom to Chile and Peru; his name like Washington's, represents the American ideal of democracy, justice and liberty.

Development of this park was accomplished thru the cooperation of the Argentine Government and our National Park Service. The statue of General San Martin was originally located in Judiciary Square; METRO construction in this area necessitated its being moved to a new location. Judiciary Square's loss is our gain—a lovely setting for a respected, Argentine national hero.

Another plus for our Foggy Bottom area is the landscaping in process at the METRO Traction Power Station at the Rock Creek Riverside Drive and Virginia Ave. The plan for this area calls for pines, oaks, maples and flowering shrubbery; some are already in. METRO and the National Park Service worked hand in hand to develop a plan which would enhance the architectural beauty of the circular building, and which would compliment our lovely park area along the Rock Creek Drive. NPS also has added some planting along the adjacent park areas.

After several years of construction mess the parks at 20th and Pa. Ave. must be giving much pleasure to the residents and workers of that area. They are really nice and appear to have been well worth putting up with all the dirt and noise for.

Speaking of parks—it would be great (and certainly respectful and courteous) if everyone would respect the NPS winter

bulb planting areas. Those hard dirt areas in the parks, which some of us tramp over, have lovely tulip bulbs underneath. PLEASE GO AROUND; you are ruining the spring flowering.

Did anyone happen to see the Snow Man and Snow Dog on the Red Cross Building grounds at 21st and E Sts. Nice.

From the looks of the junk out on the sidewalk the developers of the renovated houses at Washington Circle are really gutting the houses—wish they would haul their trash away more often.

Have you ever noticed how the bright winter sun reflects on the new red/white/blue bus signs—makes them look as if they were electrified.

Have been baby sitting the Bacon's banana tree again—it gets uglier to me and more beautiful to Ruth and Dorothy as those little bananas continue to grow.

To quote Bill Gold of the Post: "Ordinarily, a person with a complaint is more likely to take the trouble to write a letter than one who is pleased about something". He's right. Over the past several months that I have been writing this column I have had many many complimentary oral comments and one indirect written one about this column; our area residents are really interested and proud of our neighborhood. I figured this was too good to last and that someone was bound to take another side sooner or later.

Now is Sooner Time: An anonymous writer gives the column a rating of poor for not seeing (or wanting to see) how people in the 2400 block of Eye St. and in the 900 block of 26th Street block the pavement with the cars, causing residents to walk out in the street to get around. We have a driveway blocking problem where I live too and there is a city ordinance covering this. I suggest the anonymous writer use the city services to correct this situation; I do.

A second writer, signed this time, objected to the free publicity to the Guest Quarters and disagreed with my impression of their services. He basically disagreed with its presence in our area. Disagreement time is long gone; the Guest Quarters is here; my personal opinion so far, is that they are a good neighbor and render a good service to our neighborhood. My opinions are just that—my opinions; there will always be differences of opinion. The writer did mention something in his letter which involved both the Guest Quarters and The Intrigue—I will discuss this with these groups.

Sorry to see one of our faithful services depart the neighborhood: John's Shoe Repair (2506 Pa. Ave.) will be sorely missed by many residents, particularly those with orthopedic problems. John has moved to 4631 - 41st Street (41st and Wisconsin Ave.) and has a new name: The Cobbler Shop. John invites us all to continue to do business with him—or at least to visit the new shop. Good luck in your new location, John, and a prosperous New Year to you and your son.

Mary E. Healy.

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Las Vegas	several dates	from \$224.00
St. Maarten	weekly thru Oct.	from \$289.00
London	Feb. 10 - 18	\$319.00 - Balt.
Cancun	Feb. 10 - 17	\$399.00 - Dulles
Curacao	Feb. 18 - 25	\$369.00 - Balt.
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Feb. 3

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Feb. 4-5

Sleuth  
The Thomas Crown Affair

Feb. 6-7

Five Easy Pieces  
Carnal Knowledge

Feb. 8-9

Hearts of the West  
The Wind and the Lion

Feb. 10

Bedazzled  
Ten from Your Show of Shows

Feb. 11-12

Women in Love  
Elvira Madigan

## GRAY PANTHERS DO THEIR STUFF

Not everyone knows that the Gray Panthers, a scrappy organization of gray-haired individuals who fight for the rights of young and old alike, started the Citywide Housing Coalition. In May of 1974, the Housing Task Force of the Gray Panthers saw the need for a citywide group extending beyond the area of All Souls Church where meetings were being held. From a start of five organizations, the Coalition today boasts of over 60 community and church groups and tenant associations, all devoted to improving the housing situation in D.C.

One of the first achievements of the Gray Panthers was to force some banks in D.C. to give free banking services to people over 60. (The age varies from bank to bank—see below.)

	Age	Phone
D.C. National Bank	62	833-4500
First National Bank	60	389-1325
McLachlen National Bank	65	626-0100
National Savings & Trust	65	659-5900
Public National Bank	60	393-7878
United National Bank of Wash.	60	399-8300
National Bank of Wash.	62	624-3000

No service charge on checking accounts with a minimum balance of one dollar and the Social Security Administration will mail your Supplemental Security Income (SSI—gold colored) checks and your (green-colored) Social Security checks directly to your bank account. This eliminates loss of checks in mail boxes, on the way to the bank, or mugging and loss of money when leaving the bank. For more information, call the Gray Panthers at 296-8000 (mornings).

These services were fought for and won by Gray Panthers in many cities in '74 and '75. Now Social Security will send checks automatically to any bank for anyone. This is an example of how a small, organized, determined group can start a new, large trend.

## Progress on Senior Citizens Home

Plans have been revised for St. Mary's Court, a home for senior citizens to be located in the 700 block of 24th Street N.W., which is being sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and will be in the rear of St. Mary's Episcopal Church at 728-23rd Street. It will be built on a plot of land, in the center section of the block, 183' long and 122.21' deep, which is owned by the National Capital Housing Authority.

The Building will have a frontage on 24th Street of 143', which will leave 20' of space at each end of the building to the property line. It will have a depth of 69'-8" and a height of 80' from the curb elevation. The original plan was

to build it 90' high but there is a provision in the present D.C. Building Code that places a limit on the height of a building not to exceed the width of the street right-a-way, plus 20'. Some outside parking spaces will be provided as the basement will be used for meeting rooms, boilers, storage etc.

On the first floor there will be the lobby, rooms for the director, a receptionist, nurse, examination, counsel, dining, kitchen etc. The second through the ninth floors will contain 123 efficiencies and 17 one bedroom apartments. The ninth floor will have a laundry room and a lounge-library adjacent, with a 50' long balcony in the front of these two rooms, which would be on the west side. A number of the apartments on the east side of the building will have balconies. There will be a large roof deck for the benefit of those residents who enjoy the outside atmosphere.

Financing will be through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Working drawings will be completed in March and other details in connection with the project are being resolved. Construction is scheduled to begin in June.

Melvin Ogden

**PARISH NIGHT** by St. Stephen Martyr Church will be held on February 12 at 7 PM in the Atrium at the Kennedy Center. Under the sponsorship of St. Stephen's new pastor, Rev. Thomas J. Sheehan, an evening of dining and entertainment is planned for the purpose of bringing the Parish family and community together.

For reservation and more details, please call M.L. Smith, Chairman, at 333-5791, or the Parish Rectory at 785-0982.



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